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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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ALL POSTS FOR PAO, USSOCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPRC, KPAO

SUBJECT: WHA GUIDANCE, JUNE 18, 2002

SUMMARY OF CONTENTS:

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JUNE 18 (COLOMBIA, VENEZUELA, PERU)
 2. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, JUNE 18 (GUATEMALA)
- END SUMMARY.

1. WHA PRESS GUIDANCE, JUNE 18, 2002:

-- COLOMBIA: PRESIDENT-ELECT URIBE VISIT TO WASHINGTON --

QUESTION: CAN YOU COMMENT ON COLOMBIAN PRESIDENT-ELECT
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URIBE'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON?

A: THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CONGRATULATED ALVARO URIBE ON HIS ELECTION MAY 26 AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA AND EXPECTS TO CONTINUE THE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH COLOMBIA THAT HAS EXISTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PASTRANA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH THE FUTURE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT-ELECT URIBE IN ADVANCING OUR SHARED GOALS OF ELIMINATING THE SCOURGES OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AND TERRORISM, IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS CONDITIONS, AND ENSURING A PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR ALL COLOMBIANS.

DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON HE WILL MEET WITH SECRETARY OF STATE POWELL, (NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR RICE, ONDCP DIRECTOR WALTERS AND SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD, AS WELL AS MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.)

-- VENEZUELA: PEDRO CARMONA IN THE U.S. --

QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT VENEZUELAN PEDRO CARMONA'S VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: WE ARE AWARE OF PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT MR. CARMONA ARRIVED IN THE UNITED STATES OVER THE WEEKEND.

ONLY IF ASKED:

QUESTION: DID CARMONA COME IN ON A VALID VISA?

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A: WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS HAD A VALID UNITED STATES
NON-IMMIGRANT VISA FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.

QUESTION: DOES HIS PRESENCE HERE IMPLY THE U.S. CONDONES HIS
ACTIONS AS LEADER OF VENEZUELA,S SHORT-LIVED INTERIM
GOVERNMENT, WHICH ASSUMED CONTROL FROM HUGO CHAVEZ?

A: HIS PRESENCE HERE IN NO WAY IMPLIES OUR ENDORSEMENT OF
HIS PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS OF APRIL 11-14.

-- PERU: UPDATE ON DISTURBANCES --

Q: IS THERE ANY UPDATE TO INFORMATION ON THE DISTURBANCES
IN AREQUIPA AND THE SURROUNDING REGION?

A: THE GOVERNMENT IMPOSED A 30-DAY STATE OF EMERGENCY IN
AREQUIPA ON SUNDAY, WHICH INCLUDES A CURFEW. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT RELATIVE CALM HAS RETURNED, BUT "POTS AND PANS"
PROTESTS CONTINUE IN AREQUIPA AND THERE WAS SOME VIOLENCE IN
THE SOUTHERN BORDER CITY OF TACNA. OUR EMBASSY IN LIMA IS
MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY.

Q: IS THERE ANY THREAT TO AMERICAN CITIZENS?

A: WE HAVE ADVISED AMERICAN CITIZENS TRAVELING OR LIVING IN
PERU TO CONSIDER DEFERING THEIR TRAVEL PLANS TO AREQUIPA FOR
THE TIME BEING. AT THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT AWARE OF
ANY AMERICAN CITIZENS IN DANGER.

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2. CA PRESS GUIDANCE, JUNE 18, 2002:

-- GUATEMALA: HOSTAGES --

Q. WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT AMERICAN TOURISTS BEING PREVENTED
FROM LEAVING A REGION OF GUATEMALA?

ANSWER: A NUMBER OF TOURISTS, INCLUDING SOME AMERICANS, HAVE
BEEN PREVENTED FROM DEPARTING THE AREA AROUND THE MAYAN RUINS
AT TIKAL AND THE NEARBY TOWN OF FLORES SINCE YESTERDAY
BECAUSE GROUPS OF DEMONSTRATORS HAVE BLOCKED ACCESS TO AND
FROM THE AREA.

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WE HAVE REPORTS THAT ONE GROUP OF TOURISTS, INCLUDING AT LEAST ONE AMERICAN, IS AT ONE OF THE ROADBLOCKS AND IS NOT BEING PERMITTED TO LEAVE.

THE SITUATION REMAINS FLUID AND OUR EMBASSY IN GUATEMALA IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF OUR CITIZENS THERE.

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